

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 DHAHRA 00960 131204Z

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 /019 W

-----023125 132353Z /70

R 131100Z AUG 77

FM AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5616

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

USLO RIYADH

UNCLAS DHAHRAN 0960

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, SA

SUBJECT: BUSINESS COSTS IN SAUDI ARABIA'S EASTERN PROVINCE

REF: STATE A-2149, STATE 181467

1. REGRET DELAY IN RESPONDING TO REPAIR. POST HAD JUST FINISHED COLLECTING AND REVIEWING MATERIAL TO BE USED IN DRAFTING ITS RESPONSE WHEN REFTEL WAS RECEIVED.

2. IN GENERAL EMBASSY JIDDA'S RESPONSE (SEE JIDDA A-67) PROVIDES AN EXCELLENT OVERVIEW OF BUSINESS COSTS IN SAUDI ARABIA. THERE ARE A FEW EXCEPTIONS, WHICH APPLY ONLY EASTERN PROVINCE OF SAUDI ARABIA AND WE LIST THEM BELOW, CODED TO REPAIR:

(A) SECTION 1 PART 2. WAITING TIME FOR TELEPHONE IS MINIMUM OF TWO YEARS AND MAY TAKE AS LONG AS FOUR YEARS.

(B) SECTION II PART 1. TAXI COST \$5-15. MOST BUSINESS VISITORS FIND IT BETTER, BECAUSE OF DISTANCES INVOLVED IN GETTING AROUND TRI-CITY AREA OF EASTERN PROVINCE, TO RENT TAXI BY HOUR.

(C) SECTION II PART 3. NO RPT NO HOTEL OR RESTAURANT IN EASTEREM PROVINCEBRCEPTS CREDIT CARDS.

(D) SECTION III PART 1. EASTERN PROVINCE IS SERVED BY OLYMPIA, GULF, ALIA, IRANAIR, SABENA, SWISSAIR, AIR INDIA, UNCLASSIFIED

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KUWAIT, IN ADDITION TO MANY OF THOSE LISTED IN JIDDA AIRGRAOBM

(E) SECTION III PART 2. EAS

ARN PROVINCE IS SERVED BY

FOLLOWING US SHIPPING LINES: APL, PACIFIC FAR EAST, WATERMAN, CENTRAL GULF, SEA-LAND AND SEA TRAIN.

(F) SECTION IV PART 1. AL GOSAIBI CHARGES US\$ 75-95 FOR SINGLE AND \$135 FOR DOUBLE. ALKHAJA HOTEL CHARGES US\$ 40-60

FOR SINGLE AND US\$ 60-80 FOR DOUBLE.

(G) SECTION IV PART 3. FOLLOWING MEAL PRICES ARE TYPICAL  
FOR BETTER QUALITY RESTAURANTS OF EASTERN PROVINCE:

BREAKFAST US\$ 6.00 LUNCH US\$ 10.00 DINNER US\$ 12-25.

(H) SECTION V PART 1. OUR GENERAL IMPRESSION IS THAT  
HOUSE AND APARTMENT RENTS ARE DECLINING IN EASTERN PROVINCE.  
TWO-BEDROOM APARTMENTS ARE RENTING IN RANGE OF US\$ 15-18,000  
A YEAR

A THREE-BEDROOM HOUSE STARTS IN NEIGHBORHOOD OF  
US\$ 30,000 - ALL UNFURNISHED.

(I) SECTION VI PART 1. IN EASTERN PROVINCE ARAMCO FM RADIO  
OFFERS TWO ENGLISH-LANGUAGE NEWSCASTS A DAY AND NEWSCASTS  
IN ENGLISH ARE BROADCAST ON BAHRAIN, DOHA RADIO  
STATIONS AND RECEIVED HERE. (FOR MORE ON THIS SEE PART  
VI OF MANAMA A-13). ARAMCO ALSO HAS, DAILY, 7-10 HOURS OF  
ENGLISH LANGUAGE TV (AS DO NEIGHBORING GULF STATES) AND  
OIL COMPANY ALSO HAS FOUR FM TRANSMITTERS BROADCASTING  
EXCLUSIVELY CLASSICAL, ROCK, WESTERN, AND POPULAR MUSIC  
24-HOURS A DAY.

(J) BANKS IN EASTERN PROVINCE ARE OPEN 8-11:30 A.M. AND  
4-6 P.M. SATURDAY-WEDNESDAY. THURSDAY A.M. BANKS ARE  
OPEN 8-11 A.M.  
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## Message Attributes

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